



**Press Release  
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**Shri. Adityanath Yogi, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh & Shri. Amit Shah, BJP President & Rajya Sabha MP Inaugurates Indian Institute of Gems & Jewellery (IIGJ) Varanasi**

**An Educational venture of The Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council**

**Varanasi (UP), January 22, 2018:** The Indian Institute of Gems and Jewellery (IIGJ), Varanasi, an educational venture of the Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) starts its maiden operation in the historical city of art and culture, Varanasi. **The premier Gem & Jewellery Institute was Inaugurated by Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri. Adityanath Yogi & Shri. Amit Shah, BJP President & Rajya Sabha MP on 20<sup>th</sup> January at Varanasi. One year Diploma Courses will commence from January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2018.** The institution seeks to define the underlying spirit of the Diamond and Jewellery industry entrepreneurs that would lead to the founding and reviving of the innovative jewellery design, in eastern India. This initiative of GJEPC is in sync with Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of Skill India.

**GJEPC Chairman Mr. Pramod Agarwal** says, "This institution would be of immense help to the students in this region as the curriculum are based on a problem-solving design consciousness, linked to learning with actual experience and suggests that the jewellery designer could be a bridge between tradition and modernity. The Project would also be a platform for future jewellery designers to re-examine the alternatives of growth potential in this sector. The courses offered by the institution include one-year Diploma Courses in professional jewellery designing and jewellery manufacturing".

*Shri. Amit Shah commented "The world has best possible techniques in the field of gems & jewellery & India boasts of best artisans and skills. By combining the two, we should move further in our endeavors"*

*Addressing the Gem & Jewellery Fraternity at the Inauguration Ceremony, Shri Yogi said "Through the establishment of this Institute, GJEPC has taken a big step in reviving as well as retaining the traditional art of jewellery making skills in Kashi and surrounding regions"*

**Mr. Praveenshankar Pandya, Ex-Chairman GJEPC** said, “The institute will be providing quality training with appropriate Certification/Diploma to aspiring young students in Jewellery Designing and Manufacturing. Over the years, Varanasi has witnessed fast erosion of skill and talent due to large scale migration of artisans to other sectors for better job prospects. Gulabi Minakari in jewellery is the key strength of Varanasi which would be further enhanced by the skilled training. With the setting up of Indian Gem & Jewellery Institute in Varanasi, the aim is to revive our age-old artistic skills and its upgradation to match world standards. IIGJ would help increase and enhance the skill of karigars/minakars in Varanasi which would further significantly boost the total exports of gems and jewellery products from Varanasi and its adjoining area. I want more and more youths from this region to take this opportunity and make a career in this flourishing jewellery export industry.”

The Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), along with like-minded jewellery Industry business men and together with Indian Institute of Gems & Jewellery, Mumbai, selected to set up the educational outlet in this city of enlightenment which is one of the oldest cities in the world. IIGJ Varanasi’s aim would be to revive the traditional art for the betterment of the people of Varanasi and adjoining areas. The traditional arts have till now stood the test of time. However, it is no secret that the arts and craft have shown a declining trend over the past two decades in this region, after prospering for many centuries. Many traditional arts are now fighting for survival. Amongst many reasons for this decline is the fact that quality Institutes imparting traditional skills have simply disappeared from the city. IIGJ Varanasi shall seek to address this concern.

In a study conducted by NSDC on ‘Human Resources and Skill Requirement in the Gem & Jewellery Industry’ (Annual Survey of Industries and IMAcS analysis), the eastern part of India is very deficient in Gems and Jewellery Industries. One of the major reason for this would be unavailability of trained and skilled workers in this area. This has also retarded the development and growth of Gems and Jewellery Industries in eastern India.

IIGJ Varanasi facility is spread over 6,000 square feet area in Kuber Mall, Rathyatra area of Varanasi. IIGJ Institutes are spread across Mumbai, Delhi and Jaipur, in addition to Varanasi . An extension of the Institute in Udupi is also on the anvil.

#### **About Indian Institute of Gems and Jewellery, Mumbai**

Indian Institute of Gems and Jewellery (IIGJ), an initiative of GJEPC, under the aegis of Ministry of Commerce & Industries. The Institute is fortunate to have its own fully air-conditioned standalone four storied building, with a total built- up area of over 12,000 sq. ft. The campus reflects a commitment to quality and dedication to the creative and intellectual needs of students. The educational needs of the students are also promoted in unprecedented experiences of academic energy, exploration and challenges.

The Institute is in its 12th year of existence and over 8,000 students have passed out from various educational courses. At IIGJ, a student's education doesn't end at the classroom door. The Institute provides an incredible variety of opportunities for students to enhance and supplement in-class learning with hands-on experiences in top jewellery companies, a list which will read like the who's who of the jewellery industry. The Institute's educational programs are well supported by 16 full time qualified and experienced faculties and professionals from the industry are also invited as guest speakers. Three CAD labs with an overall capacity of 100 computer stations with all licensed 3D design software, two design studios, a 45 station work bench training setup for jewellery manufacturing, 3D CAM printer, Laser welder and Fisher XRF laser spectroscope are some of the other state of the art facilities available at the institute. The Institute also has its own 60 seater air conditioned auditorium with audio-visual support. IIGJ has recently restructured its courses to bring it in line with the requirement of the industry. The courses are now more intensive and comprehensive aiming to bring out the best in each individual. Management studies has been added as a core subject to make the students fully industry ready.

## **About GJEPC**

The Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), set up by the Ministry of Commerce and industry, Government of India (GoI) in 1966, is one of several Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) launched by the Indian Government, to boost the country's export thrust, when India's post-Independence economy began making forays in the international markets. Since 1998, the GJEPC has been granted autonomous status. The GJEPC is the apex body of the gems & jewellery industry and today it represents over 6,000 exporters in the sector. With headquarters in Mumbai, the GJEPC has Regional Offices in New Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Surat and Jaipur, all of which are major centres for the industry. It thus has a wide reach and is able to have a closer interaction with members to serve them in a direct and more meaningful manner. Over the past decades, the GJEPC has emerged as one of the most active EPCs, and has continuously strived to both expand its reach and depth in its promotional activities as well as widen and increase services to its members.